



# The Eagle

The Monthly Newsletter of the Federal Community

The Federal Executive Board of Minnesota

May 1998

<http://www.doi.gov/febtc/>

Volume IV Number V



## 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Civil Servant Recognition Day Luncheon - *A Great Success*

A Total of 650 employees from 34 Federal agencies were on hand at the Radisson Hotel and Plaza Tower in Bloomington on Friday, May 1st to congratulate the 81 finalists for the Civil Servant of the Year honors. This year's finalists came from 30 different Federal agencies and entities. The largest contingent of winners from a single agency - 15 - came from 4 Twin Cities organizations from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

A military color guard from the U.S. Army, 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command began the festivities hosted by Federal Executive Board of Minnesota Chair Edward Daum of the Small Business Administration.

Federal Law Enforcement national honors from the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association were awarded by the David Lillehaug, the U.S. Attorney of Minnesota. Lee Munnich, Director of the State and Local Policy Program at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota served as the keynote speaker.

Additional copies of this year's new awards booklet, printed courtesy of the Veterans Affairs Regional Office and Insurance Center, as well as a poster of the award finalists are available by calling the FEB office at (612) 713-7200.

If your agency was not represented this year, please consider nominating your best employees for next year's program which will be held in early May of 1999. *You can also nominate your outstanding employees to The Eagle's Federal Employee of the Month* (see page 2 for this month's winner).

### *New Phone Numbers for the Federal Executive Board*

**General Number (612) 713-7200**

**FAX Number (612) 713-7203**



## What's In This Issue

### PAGE 1

- Civil Servant Luncheon
- New Telephone Numbers for FEB

### PAGE 2

- **Charles J. Jones, VA Regional Office**  
- Outstanding Federal Employee of the Month
- Website of the Month -  
*cnn.com*

### PAGE 3

- Federal Employee Days at MN Twins
- Asian/Pacific Islander Month - May
- FEB & Magic Kingdom Club

### PAGE 4

- **Focus On: U.S. Army 88<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command**

### PAGE 5

- **OPM News: FERS Open Season**  
Website is now On-Line
- OPM On-Line Forms
- Welfare to Work Update

### PAGE 6

- The Training Home Page
- Satellite Broadcasts on FERS Open Season Announced
- FEB FERS Open Season Video

### PAGE 7

- FEB Monthly Calendar - June

**For General  
Distribution To All Federal  
Employees In Your Office**



*Recycle this issue  
by sharing it with  
all of your staff*

This is a second reminder that the Federal Executive Board of Minnesota, an U.S. Department of the Interior - Office of the Secretary, funded office has new telephone numbers, courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Regional Office in Fort Snelling.

**Our general number is (612) 713-7200 and our new FAX number is (612) 713-7203.**



## *"The Best In The Business"*

Federal Executive Board of the Twin Cities

### Federal Employee of the Month

**Charles J. Jones**, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist  
Department of Veterans Affairs, Twin Cities Regional Office  
St. Paul, MN



Charles Jones has been named National Veterans Small Business Advocate by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

The SBA presents this award annually in each state to individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to advancing small business opportunities for military veterans. The National winner is competitively selected from all state winners.

Charles will receive the award from President Clinton in ceremonies at the White House during Small Business Week, May 31 through June 6, 1998.

More than 675 veterans are currently receiving Voc-rehab training and counseling under Charles' supervision. He has successfully assisted another 175 veterans into jobs or self-employment. It is his efforts in helping disabled veterans start small businesses that caught the attention of SBA.

Working with small business development resource organizations, Charles has helped disabled veterans start a number of successful enterprises including: a gunsmith service, a trucking company, a restaurant and a free-lance art studio. In the next few months other veterans plan to open businesses in nature photography, private investigation, taxidermy and heating and air conditioning.

Charles said, *"I can see the good feeling and self-esteem that some disabled veterans can find from being self-employed. It is not the right choice for everyone, but it can be very fulfilling for the right person."* It is also his hope that, as these small businesses grow, their owners will provide jobs for other veterans.

*This nomination was submitted by George Saumweber, Public Information Officer - Small Business Administration - Minneapolis District Office, Minneapolis, Minnesota.*



## The Electronic Eagle

Do you want to save fax paper? Do you have Email that can receive messages via the Internet? If so, then you could receive **The Electronic Eagle** in Full Color. You can also forward it to your staff to keep them informed of the different activities within the Federal community. It could also be printed for distribution, in color if you have the right equipment.

Now for the technical stuff! You need to have Adobe Acrobat reader on each computer where you send it. The good news is that the Acrobat reader is absolutely free and can be downloaded from the Internet at <http://www.adobe/acrobat>. Need more information, call us at (612) 713-7200. The Electronic Eagle is also posted monthly on our FEB Internet Site, <http://www.doi.gov/febtc/>.



custom news

|          |
|----------|
| WORLD    |
| U.S.     |
| LOCAL    |
| WEATHER  |
| SPORTS   |
| BUSINESS |
| SCI-TECH |
| POLITICS |
| TRAVEL   |
| STYLE    |
| SHOWBIZ  |
| BOOKS    |
| HEALTH   |
| EARTH    |
| SPECIALS |

CNN

allpolitics

CNN

EN ESPAÑOL

em português

audio



Website  
of the Month  
[www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com)

How do you want your news?

Do you want it in-depth and at length? Do you want it neatly packaged in manageable portions? Do you want it at an appointed hour? Or do you want it when the mood, need or whim strikes you?

Those questions (and thousands of others) are what the people of CNN Interactive asked as they set out to put up-to-the-minute news on the Internet. The answer, at least for now, is CNN site on the World Wide Web.

In this site, you'll find a representative mix of what makes CNN the news organization that it is. There are stories from every part of the globe as well as comments from your neighbors down the street. There are news briefs, but there are also comprehensive examinations of major issues and events. There is news to suit the interest of almost any user by using the Custom News feature, you get your own news, weather, sports or stock quotes as you like it whenever you want it.



## CNN Website interactive of the Month -

*Continued*

The site is rich with images, both still and moving. And the experience is made all the richer by the audio clips that they use to help tell the story. CNN challenges you to find another news site on the Web which uses the multimedia tools of text, image, video and sound better than they do.

CNN Interactive has its own staff dedicated to bringing you constantly updated, accurate news through the Internet. You won't find that on every other news site. And this material comes from the same news sources which drive the CNN services that you can watch on your television.

But not all the news you'll find here comes solely from CNN. To limit your exploration of a story to just one source defeats the purpose of the World Wide Web. They find the links to expand a news story.

In order to bring you all the story, they've made an innovative arrangement with the LEXIS®-NEXIS® Information Service. As a CNN Web user, you'll be able to view selected stories from the vast archives of LEXIS®-NEXIS®, stories from thousands of newspapers, magazines and broadcasters from all over the world. It's just one more way to ensure that you're getting the most complete, accurate and interactive news available anywhere.

Be sure to check out the features of the Custom News feature as you can really pare down the news to those features that are important to you and your agency. **Best of all the entire CNN Interactive site is free.**



## Federal Employee Days at the Minnesota Twins



The Federal Executive Board has two more dates for Federal Employees at a Minnesota Twins Game in Minneapolis. The Twins will sell their lower level reserved tickets (normally \$13 each) to Federal Employees and their families for \$9 each. **Mail order only. Call the FEB for an order form.** Mark your calendars -- the games and times are listed below.

**Sunday, June 14th**

- Twins v.s. Chicago White Sox at 1:05 P.M.

**Wednesday, August 19th**

- Twins v.s. New York Yankees at 7:05 P.M.



*Formal signing of law in the Oval Office*

## May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

### *Asian Pacific Americans: Pursuing Progress*

To honor the accomplishments of Asian and Pacific Americans and to recognize their many contributions to our Nation, the Congress, by Public Law 102-450, has designated the month of May as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month."

A Most Magical Employee Benefit Program



Walt Disney's  
Magic Kingdom Club



Please Distribute To All  
Employees, for more copies call  
(612) 725-3687

*Call the FEB Office for your card today  
Use our new phone number (612) 713-7200*





## Focus On:



# U.S. ARMY RESERVE



88th Regional Support Command  
Fort Snelling/St. Paul, Minnesota



Major General John M.  
O'Connell, Commander

The U.S. Army Reserve's 88th Regional Support Command (RSC) was established in 1996 at Fort Snelling, St. Paul, Minn., as the command, control and support headquarters for Reserve units in the six-state region of the upper Midwest. More than 26,000 soldiers serve in the 88th's 267 Reserve combat support (CS) and combat service support (CSS) units in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

The RSC is composed of 9 major subordinate commands (MSCs) and five direct reporting organizations (DROs). These MSCs are made up of engineer, medical, maintenance, transportation, supply, military police, ordnance and military intelligence units, to name a few. The RSC also supports nearly 11,000 additional soldiers serving in direct reporting commands to the U. S. Army Reserve Command (USARC), Atlanta, Ga.

The mission of the 88th RSC is to provide ready units for active duty deployment at a moment's notice. The bulk of the Total Army's CS and CSS (medical, transportation, quartermaster, signal, engineer, maintenance, military police, public affairs and port operations) units reside in the Army Reserve. In peacetime, unit members train for mobilization.

They also participate in community projects and have the ability to support disaster relief operations in the communities where they live and work.

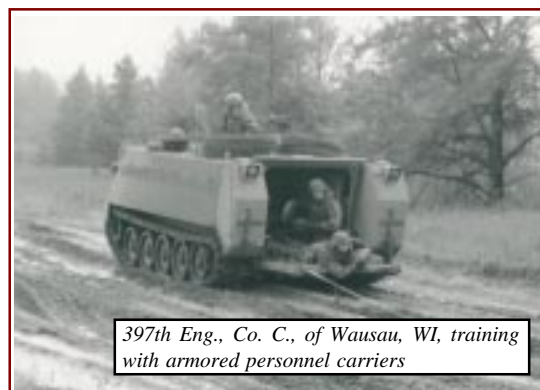
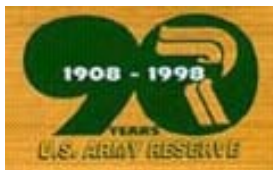
For more information about the 88th RSC, call the Public Affairs Office at (612)713-3011/3012.

Speakers are available to talk to any groups interested in learning about the 88th RSC and the Army Reserve.

The 88th RSC Internet address is: <http://160.136.109.3/88thsrc/>



*The 88th Regional Support Command is a community-based force which participates in community events such as the Minnesota Military Expo held annually at Fort Snelling. The Expo, a team effort of the joint services and veterans service organizations of the Twin Cities area, is a showcase of local military units, personnel, aircraft and equipment displays, military demonstration teams; and historic displays at Historic Fort Snelling from pre-Revolutionary days through Desert Storm. This year's Expo is scheduled for July 18th and 19th.*



397th Eng., Co. C., of Wausau, WI, training with armored personnel carriers

*The 88th Regional Support Command is responsible for the command and control of over 267 units located in six states and the training and combat readiness of over 26,000 citizen-soldiers.*



377th Military Police Company (Guard) of Cincinnati, OH



**Would you like to have your Agency profiled in the next Focus section?  
Our next deadline for the Eagle is June 5th.**

*Please submit your materials including photographs and graphics to the FEB Office.  
Preferably on diskette in either WordPerfect or Microsoft Word format or  
Email articles to our [FEB\\_Minnesota@ios.doi.gov](mailto:FEB_Minnesota@ios.doi.gov)*



## OPM NEWS RELEASE

<http://www.opm.gov/>



### A New Comprehensive FERS Open Season Website is Now On-line at OPM.GOV

A new OPM website debuted on May 15th for the expected 6-month long FERS Open Season which is scheduled to begin on July 1, 1998. The site contains information on the following areas: Upcoming Satellite Broadcasts; Quick Decision segment; FERS Transfer Handbook *Online*; FERS Transfer Model; FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions); Glossary; Employee Resources; A segment for Benefits Personnel. The site also has a comprehensive *pull down* menu for additional resources related to the open season that are on the Office of Personnel Management website. The address of the site is [http://www.opm.gov/fers\\_election/](http://www.opm.gov/fers_election/).

### OPM On-Line Electronic Forms Center

<http://www.opm.gov/forms/>

OPM has a site devoted to providing your agency with the latest updated forms ready to download. The site also has links to other agency specific forms of government. Here is a sampling:

- Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FE) Forms
- Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Forms
- Optional Forms (OF)
- Standard Forms (SF)
- Applications for Federal Employment Forms for OPM Internal use



### Presidential Initiatives

### Welfare To Work Update

By the end of March 1998, Federal agencies reported having hired over 3,600 former welfare recipients. This represents 35% of the total expected hires of 10,638. The initiative runs until the end of Fiscal Year 2000. This accomplishment puts the Federal government well on track to succeed in hiring its fair share of the new workers transitioning off the welfare rolls. This achievement is more notable since the number of Federal employees has been shrinking during this same period. The Federal workforce is today the smallest it has been in over 35 years.

The top 10 leading agencies/bureaus with their percentage of overall target goals are listed below.

1. Office of Personnel Mgmt. - 148%
2. U.S. Information Agency - 125%
3. Department of the Treasury - 122%
4. Executive Office of President - 117%
5. Dept. of Veterans Affairs - 86%
6. Securities & Exchange Comm - 60%
7. Department of Agriculture - 59%
8. Department of Health & HS - 58%
9. General Services Administ. - 55%
10. Department of Defense - 52%

**The Eagle** is published by the Federal Executive Board staff. We encourage any comments, suggestions or articles. Please submit information by FAX (612) 713-7203 or Email: [FEBC\\_Minnesota@ios.doi.gov](mailto:FEBC_Minnesota@ios.doi.gov)  
**We prefer E-mailed material. The next deadline is June 5th.**

Editor/designer: Ray Morris, Executive Director

Co-Editor: Margaret Geisler, Staff Assistant



**The Federal Executive Board of Minnesota**  
is funded by the Department of the Interior,  
Office of the Secretary





## The FEB Interagency Training Home Page

Please Forward This Segment To Your Local Agency  
Training Officer/Office and All Employees



### Upcoming Training Schedule Of The FEB Interagency Training Council

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| May 28, 1998       | Time Management                          |
| May 30, 1998       | Mid-Career Financial Planning Seminar    |
| May 14, 1998       | Cultivating Your Benefits Seminar        |
| June 2, 1998       | Benchmarking and Competitive Comparisons |
| June 16, 1998      | Mid-Career Financial Planning Seminar    |
| June 16-18, 1998   | Basic Facilitation                       |
| June 23, 1998      | Pre-Retirement Seminar                   |
| July, 1998         | no seminars scheduled                    |
| August 18-20, 1998 | Advanced Facilitation                    |
| September 29, 1998 | Pre-Retirement Seminar                   |
| September 22, 1998 | Creative Problem-Solving                 |
| November 5, 1998   | Finding the Value for Customers          |
| December 10, 1998  | TBA                                      |
| December 11, 1998  | TBA                                      |

All of the above seminars require preregistration. Registration materials are sent to each agency head 30-45 days prior the seminar date. All of the above seminars will be held in Room 570, Bishop Henry Whipple Fort Snelling.

5/98



### FERS Open Season video is coming from the FEB Inter- agency Training Council

A 2-hour long professionally filmed and edited FERS Open Season video was recently taped at the VA Medical Center for the Federal Executive Board Interagency Training Council. USDA Benefits Officer Tom Haley of the Food Safety and Inspection Service is the narrator of this program.

The video will be available for a nominal cost to Federal offices and will be out within a month. Details, prices and other information will be forwarded to your agency head as soon as it becomes available. **Individual tapes are expected to be available in June and cost agencies approximately \$20.00 each.**

This is a high quality program that should answer most employee questions about the upcoming 6-month FERS Open Season that is anticipated to begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Any questions? Call us at (612) 713-7200.



## This Month's Satellite Broadcast Schedule - On The Upcoming FERS Open Season

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has scheduled three live, interactive 90-minute satellite broadcasts on FERS transfer issues. The first two, on May 28 and June 3, will be training sessions directed toward agency personnel who are responsible for assisting employees who have the opportunity to transfer to FERS. The third broadcast on June 24 will be directed at all employees who are eligible to transfer to FERS. **For coordinates see OPM website [http://www.opm.gov/fers\\_election/html/broad.htm](http://www.opm.gov/fers_election/html/broad.htm) or call the FEB office for the information at 713-7200.**

| Date          | Time (all CDT)      | Who should attend/topic   |
|---------------|---------------------|---|
| May 28, 1998  | 12:00p.m.- 1:30p.m. | Benefits personnel and others who are responsible for assisting employees who have the opportunity to transfer to FERS Topic: Managing a FERS open season   |
| June 3, 1998  | 12:00p.m.- 1:30p.m. | Benefits personnel and others who are responsible for assisting employees who have the opportunity to transfer to FERS Topic: FERS Election Opportunities web site - Viewers will be given a "tour" of the web site, including a demonstration of how to use the FERS Topic: Transfer Model.  |
| June 24, 1998 | 12:00p.m.- 1:30p.m. | Employees eligible to transfer to FERS Topic: This broadcast will compare and contrast CSRS and FERS benefits, discuss Social Security benefits that some employees might gain by transferring to FERS, cover Thrift Savings Plan issues of interest to people with an opportunity to transfer, and demonstrate use of the FERS Transfer Model. |



## FEB Monthly Calendar - June 1998

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---|---|--|---|----------|
|        | 1      | 2   | 3   | 4  | 5   | 6        |
|        |        | <b>C o u r s e :</b><br>Benchmarking<br>and Competitive<br>Comparisons  | OPM Satellite<br>Downlink on<br>FERS Open Sea-<br>son<br>12:00 to 1:30<br>P.M. CDT                                | • Diversity<br>Programs Council<br>8:30 A.M. at FEB<br>• Interagency Trng<br>Council 11:30<br>Whipple G-11 | • Partnership MN<br>at FEB Office<br>8:30 A.M.<br>• LFCC Meeting<br>at 12:30 P.M. |          |
| 7      | 8      | 9   | 10  | 11   | 12  | 13       |
|        |        |   | FEB Policy<br>Board Meeting<br>at 7:30 A.M. at<br>National Weather<br>Service Forecast<br>Office in<br>Chanhassen | FWP Policy<br>Meeting 1:00<br>P.M. in Room<br>570 BHW Bldg.  |   |          |
| 14     | 15     | 16  | 17  | 18   | 19  | 20       |
|        |        | <b>Course:</b> Mid-Ca-<br>reer Financial<br>Planning Seminar  |   | • SADB OC at 8:30<br>A.M. FEB Office<br>• SGMP 11:30<br>A.M.   |   |          |
|        |        | <b>FEB Course : Basic Facilitation</b>  |   |  |   |          |
| 21     | 22     | 23  | 24  | 25   | 26  | 27       |
|        |        | • FEB Public<br>Affairs Council<br>Meeting 2:00 P.M.<br>at FEB Office<br>• <b>Course:</b> Pre-Re-<br>tirement Seminar | OPM Satellite<br>Downlink on<br>FERS Open Sea-<br>son<br>12:00 to 1:30<br>P.M. CDT                                |  |   |          |
| 28     | 29     | 30  |   |  |   |          |
|        |        |   |   |  |   |          |

### Key To Abbreviations/Acronyms

**FEB** - Federal Executive Board

**CASU** - Cooperative Administrative Support Unit

**ITC** - Interagency Training Council of the FEB

**SGMP** - Society of Government Meeting Professionals

**SADB OC** - Small and Disadvantaged Business Opportunity Council

**FWP** - Federal Woman's Program

**LFCC** - Local Federal Coordinating Committee of the CFC

The FEB Office is located in Suite 510 in the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building in Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

Telephone number (612) 713-7200

Facsimile number (612) 725-3835

Email address [FEB\\_Minnesota@ios.doi.gov](mailto:FEB_Minnesota@ios.doi.gov)

Internet Website <http://www.doi.gov/febtc/>